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ARIZONA DAILY WILDCAT

wildcat.arizona.edu Monday, January 31, 2005 The University of Arizona, Tucson

Presidents support tuition increases

By Natasha Bhuyan
ARIZONA DAILY WILDCAT

TEMPE — The three state university presidents voiced their support for more tuition hikes Friday, but said predictable tuition increases over time could be a risk due to uncertainty in the external market.

At the Arizona Board of Regents meeting at Arizona State University, regents discussed a proposal to make tuition increases predictable every four years so families

could budget their finances. However, the university presidents said the instability of factors such as financial aid and state appropriations would make the proposal challenging.

“My own belief is the chaotic environment in which we’re working makes it very difficult to predetermine tuition rates,” said UA President Peter Likins.

However, student regent

Wes McCalley said having a zero percent tuition increase one year, then having a 39 percent increase the next is a disservice to students.

“We’ve got to find a way to build in some sort of plan for students,” McCalley said. “They might not have an exact number of what they will be paying, but they’ll have some sort of idea.”

Despite their opposition to predictable tuition increases,

university presidents said tuition increases are necessary in a time of shrinking state appropriations coupled with rising operational costs.

ASU president Michael Crow said the universities’ financial crises will continue since they are funded by the state and tuition revenue, which are well below their operational costs, resulting in low graduation rates.

“You can’t build a great university on Wal-Mart prices,” Crow said.

See **TUITION/10**



MATT ROBLES/Arizona Daily Wildcat
Student Regent Ben Graff, left, listens as fellow Student Regent Wes McCalley, right, discusses the proposal of having predictable tuition increases Friday in Tempe.

Women’s reproductive rights discussed at UA Mall rally



JOSH FIELDS/Arizona Daily Wildcat
Laila Sarah of Planned Parenthood of Southern Arizona speaks at a rally held on the UA Mall Saturday afternoon. The rally commemorated the anniversary of the Supreme Court case Roe v. Wade that made abortions legal in the United States.

By Zach Colick
ARIZONA DAILY WILDCAT

A woman’s right to autonomy over her own body was discussed at the Arizona Coalition for Fairness Rally presented by the UA Students For Choice on the UA Mall Saturday.

The celebration commemorated the anniversary of the controversial *Roe v. Wade* decision giving women the right to an abortion. Speakers and bands tried to generate positive activity and a greater understanding of women’s reproductive freedom to a crowd of more than 30 people.

Allison Baron, co-chair of the Students For Choice group, said the reason for the rally was to inform women on what their options are and how to step up and make their voices heard.

Baron, a physiological sciences junior, said the 10 or so members in Students for Choice all have a strong passion for women’s reproductive rights.

“It is a woman’s right to choose. There’s no reason why we should not have a choice in the matter,” Baron said. “The government shouldn’t interfere in our lives.”

Baron said the current Bush administration is anti-abortion and anti-women,

as the government is challenging sex education classes by trying to cut funding to those programs and telling women to practice abstinence.

“The White House has doubled abstinence education and is ready to elect more conservative Supreme Court justices,” Baron said. “This could lead 30 states to not have abortion.”

Allison Dumka, a political science sophomore, said she attended the event because the issue of abortion is relevant to all women’s lives.

Dumka said the rights of women, which were not always there, were fought for and gained in the late 1970s

See **RALLY/8**

UA lone Pac-10 school not requiring first-year meal plan

By Jennifer Amsler
ARIZONA DAILY WILDCAT

The Arizona Board of Regents approved Friday to implement a mandatory meal plan at Arizona State University for on-campus freshmen beginning fall 2006, making the UA the only university in the Pacific 10 Conference not requiring freshmen to pay some kind of dining fee.

The UA is also the last Arizona university to not have such a plan, as Northern Arizona University imposed a mandatory dining plan for freshmen in August.

Student leaders at ASU voiced support for the meal plan proposal at the regents meeting, citing they needed the revenue to fund a new learning center called McAllister Academic Village.

McAllister Academic Village, a center specifically designed for ASU freshmen, would include a residence hall, classrooms, tutoring sites, faculty offices and dining facilities.

However, some of the funding to build McAllister Avenue would have to come from a meal plan fee for freshmen, which ASU student leaders said was worth imposing to support the learning center.

UA President Peter Likins said the UA has no immediate need for a learning center like McAllister Avenue, and if a mandatory meal plan were implemented sometime in the future, it would be to increase the freshman community.

However, Dan Adams, director of the Student Union Memorial Center, said the unions could build more food courts and restaurants while not worrying about how to pay for it because they would be guaranteed base revenue each year from freshmen living on campus.

Adams said he has been working with UA student groups to gain input on whether it would work well for the UA community, something that did not happen as much at ASU.

“We’ve had very little time for discussion with students,” said Julie Johnson, vice president of ASU’s undergraduate student government.

Since Adams began speaking to campus groups about the proposal, student leaders have been hesitant

See **MEAL PLAN/8**